

Workforce Housing Study

Nuisance Buildings and Structures

Fire Service Perspective

The following will try to identify some of the potential issues or challenges faced by volunteer fire departments in South Dakota when dealing with the abatement of old, dilapidated homes and structures.

Fire Department considerations:

- Permission to burn – local sign offs in place.
 - Approval from the property owner to burn.
 - Local jurisdiction approval to burn. (local laws/ordinances, burn permits, not burning during burn bans, etc.)
- Appropriate equipment, manpower, training to perform the burn – burn plan in place.
 - Are all personnel involved wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.
 - All personnel involved are trained and certified.
 - Sufficient manpower is in place to help ensure a safe operation – ie: command personnel, designated safety officer, someone in charge of rehabilitation or firefighter safety – EMS on standby.
 - Is the structure in an area where the burn can be performed safely.
 - Proximity to other structures (exposures)? Protection from fire and smoke damage?
 - Protection of exposed people, breathing smoke?
 - Weather and wind direction?
 - Other items that will cause fire to spread (grass, trees, etc.)
 - Materials within the burn that will not be allowed due to air quality issues. (Asbestos, plastic, rubber, etc.) ***DENR controlled burning requirement questions.***
 - Waste material disposal after the burn. ***DENR landfill/waste disposal question.***
 - Liability insurance coverage in case of damage caused by the fire department burn.

DENR: Open Burning Guidelines: <http://denr.sd.gov/des/aq/openburn.aspx>

- In cases where fire departments chose to use burns for firefighter training, the Fire Marshal's office strongly recommends the department follow NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.
 - Article on Live Fire Training from Fire Engineering for reference:
<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/1/volume-168/issue-3/nfpa-1403/conducting-nfpa-1403-compliant-live-burn-training-in-acquired-structures-full.html>

The State Fire Marshal's Office does not have any involvement or oversight in the day to day operations of volunteer fire departments in South Dakota.